

A SQUARE DEAL FOR THE CHILDREN



INSTRUCTED IN A GOOD MANNER FOR HIS BROTHER.

Reverie

Written for The Star.

Perhaps began the Married Man—if parents generally were more solicitous about giving their children a square deal all round there would be considerably less complaint to the effect that in these degenerate times many, many children seem to be densely ignorant of the fact that there is a commandment which runs: "Honor thy father and thy mother; that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee."

Consider old man Sampson. Nice old man to meet socially. Fine to do business with. Charitable and all that. Commands universal respect. Has everything, seemingly, in the way of this world's goods to make him happy and contented. Yet he is constantly grieving because none of his children except William seem to have that deep love and affection for him which a father is naturally led to look for in his offspring. To him it is an inexplicable mystery, apparently, yet to any of his friends the why and wherefore is as plain as day itself.

The Sampson children are five in number.

Only daughter being the eldest, William is the third son in point of years.

Up to the time that he became a member of the Sampson household, his head did not

of the other of his children. But William was

tingly changed completely his proud father's

attitude. Perhaps it was due to the cir-

cumstances of his birth, but whatever the

cause, before William's legs were free of

long dresses the father had begun planning

to make him the future head of the firm

bearing the Sampson name. He talked freely

about his object in the bosom of his

family, he told around the world, that in

the presence of his brothers, that one

day he alone would be head of the

firm and house of Sampson. He also gave

his friends and acquaintances with whom

he came in contact, the same information,

and he not only sent William through

college, by way of preparation, but

a German university as well, and after

that on a trip around the world, that the

young man might be broadened to the great-

est possible extent.

Prodigal Got the "Snap."

William returned to his home some four

years ago. At that time his oldest brother

had been in charge of one of the responsible

departments of the family business for a

number of a half dozen years. He was skilled

apparently, in the ways of the business to

the smallest detail, but no matter.

The moment William indicated that he was

ready to go to work at last, he was straight-

way taken into the office as his father's

right-hand man. A little over a year ago,

when the old gentleman retired from active

participation, William became the active

head of the firm, by way of reward

for his years of good service, was

placed in charge of one of the firm's branch

houses at less than one-third the salary

which William receives.

In similar fashion the other boys have

been shunted aside in William's interests.

The second son was not taken into the

business; he was told that there would be

no room for him when William came in.

He became an architect, and, thanks to his

innate ability, is making out very well, in-

deed. The youngest son left his books last

month. Long ago, he realized that he could

not hope to become a member of his father's

firm, so he planned to make a name for

himself in the field, and in making this

decision did not think it necessary or

advisable to consult with his father. Why

should I trouble him, he said to his sister,

"when he is all taken up with William and

his affairs?"

Of course, the old gentleman can't under-

stand, for the life of him, the boy's frame

of mind. As for his daughter, it grieves

him sorely to have her say two-edged

words about her father, but he is not

as if she were envious of her brother, and

unappreciative of all that her old father

has done for her. So he goes about declar-

ing that that filial love that it was in his

day, for of all his offshoots only William

seems to be grateful for what has been

done in his behalf.

This business of arbitrarily setting aside

a certain son as successor to the family

business and training him up as such, in-

stead of giving each an equal chance to

prove his worth to the honor, is working

to keep many a boy from getting the

square deal that is naturally due him.

The Child With "A Career."

Then there is the son or daughter who

is being prepared for a "career" at the

expense of the other members of the family.

Miss Cecilia Wilkins was once told that

she had a superb voice, and that all it

needed was cultivation. A dapper little

Frenchman, who was giving her singing

lessons at \$5 per lesson, paid her this com-

pliment, and paid it so often and with

such sincerity that she was Cecilia

and said and laid plans accordingly to have

Miss Cecilia cultivate her voice abroad in

the famous musical centers.

Previous to this time, Miss Cecilia had

gone through a young woman's seminary,

taking the full four years' course, at one

thousand per year, tuition and all, and

including dress. In another year her

brother would be ready to enter college,

and for this event her father, who was

only comfortably situated financially, had

been nursing his bank account, and

leaving his year before last college. But

Miss Cecilia wanted so much to go

abroad, and her mother wouldn't be going to

college for another year yet, and the long

and short of it was, Miss Cecilia went

triumphantly abroad.

That was five years ago. Today she is

still haunting the continental music stud-

ies, while John, after two years in college, had

not to leave and go to work. There had

been money in the family treasury

to keep him at his books and his sister

abroad—and she was the one with "a car-

eer," don't you know.

At this point is that of Percy

Augusta Phillips.

Percy is his widowed mother's only son.

She thinks the sun rises and sets on him.

She wishes to be a physician. He conceived

the idea when his mother was preparing

to equip the eldest of her two daughters

for the same profession, and he was self-

supporting, if the occasion ever demanded

it of her. Immediately the family plans

were knocked into a cocked hat, and

each of her children to the same extent for

the serious part of life, or to give Percy

the course in college, medical schools and

hospitals which would be necessary before

he could hope to become a practicing phy-

sician. Well, as already hinted, Percy has

ever been the apple of his mother's eye, and

he is having his way, and neither she

receiving educational instruction of any

sort and does not expect to. On the other

hand, last year the family took and made

of all work was let go, and Percy might

not of spending money, and the girls

are doing the housework, as well as their

own sewing, when they get time for it.

The "Example."

Furthermore, it often happens—went on

the married man—that the eldest child of a

growing family is denied a square deal

simply because of his seniority. For example:

Raymond Hayes was the eldest of six

children. When his first brother was

enough to take over the family business,

Raymond was barely five, yet he was informed that now

he was incumbent upon him to set a good

example for his brother, as he was the

older and supposed to know better what

was right and what wrong. Whenever a

new baby came to the family, Raymond

was told that he was the same old

sentimental dinged-on to his ears, and

when, in the course of time, he and his

brothers and sisters got into the inevitable

family squabbles, Raymond invariably re-

ceived the severest punishment from his

parents. He was the eldest; he had failed

to set the good example expected of him;

he was the oldest, and hence the extra

chastisement.

Up to the time he left home Raymond

was the favorite of his father, and he

was in this fashion, for at no stage of his

boyhood and youth did he prove to be a

glittering success as a good example. He

had far more than enough to do to keep

himself from being a failure, and he was

home late. He says he won't go back again

until his eldest sister is married and from

under the normal rule, this sister, the one

who is to be the example, is now a

girl of the heart until he'd pull her pig-

tail in desperation, and then, of course,

he got lambasted, because he should have

been the example, and he was not. He

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